

permanently affixed to the bag 1. The retaining strap 7 is typically used to secure the personal search rope bag 1 to the waist strap of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The retaining strap 7 should be secured to the SCBA by wrapping it around the shoulder strap of the SCBA at the point where it connects to the waist strap of the SCBA. The retaining strap 7 thereby prevents the personal search rope bag 1 from falling off of the waist strap of the SCBA when the waist strap is unbuckled. If the strap 7 is not used it should be secured inside the belt strap 13 to prevent the strap 7 from becoming entangled in building rubble or obstacles.

The belt strap 13 allows the personal search rope bag to be attached to a variety of fire gear applications. It is adjustable to fit the waist belt as well as both upper and lower shoulder straps of an SCBA. The mating releasable fastening strips allow the personal search rope bag 1 to be placed on straps that are fastened at both ends. The mating releasable fastening strips allow for the quick removal of the personal search rope bag 1. Without disconnecting the straps of the SCBA, the search rope bag 1 can be removed quickly from the firefighter if the personal search rope bag 1 or rope 5 is entangled in an obstacle or rubble.

Figure 3 also depicts the exterior side of a snap fastener 15 at the open end of the rope bag 1. The snap fastener 15 may be constructed of stainless steel. The snap fastener 15 secures the front of the rope department to the rear of the rope department. The snap fastener 15 keeps the bulk of the rope 5 from falling out and possibly becoming entangled. The snap fastener 15 allows the rope 5 to play out smoothly on either side of the snap fastener 15.

Figure 4 depicts an inverted view of the personal search rope bag 1. In this figure the D-ring 9 is stowed in the D-ring pocket 17. The flap for covering the D-ring 3 is shown in an opened position thereby allowing access to the D-ring 9. The rope 5 is stowed in the rope compartment. In the preferred embodiment, the rope 5 is forty feet long and is typically 5 millimeters in diameter. The rope 5 is simply stuffed into the rope compartment. The rope 5 includes a knot on either side of the grommet. The knot on the inside prevents the rope 5 from falling out through the grommet. The knot on the outside secures the rope 5 to the personal search rope bag 1.

In the preferred embodiment, the D-ring 9 is of an aluminum non-locking utility grade. The working end of the rope 5 is secured to the D-ring 9. The D-ring is housed in the D-ring pocket 17 at the open end of the personal search rope bag 1. When the flap for covering the D-ring 3 is opened, the D-ring is easily accessible. When the D-ring is removed from D-ring pocket 17 and attached to an anchor point such as a hose line or main line search rope, it plays out of the personal search rope bag as the firefighter moves away from the anchor point. The flap 3 may be left open when the rope 5 is being used. It should be noted that the personal search rope bag 1 may be produced without the D-ring pocket 17. Additionally, the rope bag 1 and the rope 5 may be constructed of fire retardant materials. The rope may also be substituted with a belt or other such material. If a belt is used to couple the firefighter with the hose line, then the grommet may be substituted with another means for securing the belt to the bag.

It is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the exact construction illustrated and described above, but that various changes and modifications may be made

without departing from the spirit and the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.